Rec^d Jan 18th
Ans Dec 12 1850

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

New York Jany. 5th 1848.

Dear Sir,

Not having been able to prepare, & dispose of the specimens, which you were so kind as to send me on behalf of Mr. Fengler, before the present time, I thought it better to defer sending you the money collected, until I could give an exact account.

From the manner in which the specimens were packed many were injured, but still I hope that the amount collected will induce Mr. Fengler to continue his collections; by not paying so much attention to the other orders, & by searching more industriously for the species which exist in fewer varieties of locality, several thousand specimens of Coleoptera may be collected in a season, without any interruption to his botanical labors.

The specimens were thus disposed of.

Mr. Haldeman	200 specimens	Coleoptera (76)	other orders (24)	$ 10,00
" Thomson	100	Coleoptera		5,00
" Le Conte	250	Coleop.		12.50
		Check enclosed.		$ 27.50

And several others of my friends were anxious to obtain some, but as the supply is exhausted I am obliged to disappoint them for the present. Dr. Wislizenus gave me some hopes that Mr. Fengler would go to Oregon next summer. If so, do not fail to make him promise to collect very industriously, as every thing from that country will be valua

ble. & I think I could promise him $6,00 per hundred for at least a portion. It would be better never to take but 1, or 2 specimens of species which are not Coleoptera. Of the latter orders 15 specimens could probably be disposed of.

Now the best way of preserving these, is to put all which are <u>not hairy</u> in alcohol, in 8 oz. bottles: when one is filled with specimens the liquid may be drained off, & a <u>tight</u> cork inserted, which is to be covered with wax. Of the <u>hairy</u> ones, some few might be packed in paper; & some others near the top of the ordinary bottles, so that they will not be exposed too long to the action of the spirit. <u>The small species should be kept separate from the large ones.</u> & put into homoeopathic, or creasote bottles with alcohol: one of these little bottles will hold 200 or 300 specimens. In decomposing animal & vegetable matters are found an immense variety of species (all small) with short elytra; in these I am very much interested having now more than 200 new species. they have this form. I would beg him not to neglect these; they may be shaken by hundreds out of decomposing fungi, & as they are easy to collect, & occupy but little room, he might take all he shakes out: If there are more than are wanted of any species, no harm is done, & they will probably be almost entirely new. They also exist in large numbers under dung, & dead carcases. many will be seen running about in wet places, together with an immense number of other small coleoptera. Another good way of collecting is throw the water up with the hands against the margins of rivulets; within a few inches of the water an immense number of species live, which are thus drowned out. There is also a genus (Hister) composed of shining round black species, with a few stria on the wing covers, thus: In

these I am also much interested; they counterfeit death when seized, drawing up their legs, so that nothing is visible. They are very numerous under dead fish, near the sea; they are also found in dung, fungi & carrion. Whenever they are found, let several be taken, of all the varieties of size & brilliancy, as they resemble each other very much, & are found mixed together under the same carcass. The cicindelæ are also very valuable. they fly about with great activity when the sun is shining brightly; they should all be packed dry with paper. the species which there were 3 skippingers from Sta. Fé, but none new are found crawling about on the ground in such abundance on the western prairies, are very numerous, & very similar; many of them are exceedingly local, & some should therefore be collected every day. But while paying more attention to the groups named, those living under bark, and on plant should also be sought for.

Our friend Prof. Agassiz has just missed Dr. Wislizenus; left here yesterday for Boston to commence his professorial duties, we have planned a trip to James' Bay, next summer, after which I hope to pay you a visit in his company.

With the hope that the directions contained herein, will induce Mr. Zengler to take up the business of entomological collector in earnest, & with many thanks for the favors received from you,

I remain,

Your sincere friend

John L. LeConte,

46 Walker Street

New York.

P.S. I hoped to have some pamphlets to send you containing descriptions of the valuable species received from you on my visit to St. Louis; they have not yet arrived, but I will send them as soon as received. If Mr. Zengler thinks he would take the trouble to pin such Coleoptera as would be injured by spirits, instead of having them packed in paper, I could send him 2 or 3 thousand pins.

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PAID

George Engelmann
St Louis
Missouri.

J. L. LeConte

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Missouri Botanical Garden

Rec'd July 14
Ans Sept 13

New York, July 3rd 1851

Dear Sir

Having been absent from New York when your letter of the 12th Feby. arrived I have not been able to answer it before a very few days have elapsed since my return. Mr Son left here in November 1849 and has been ever since his arrival in California travelling about the country. I doubt whether he has paid much attention to the vegetable productions of it. If I had met him some months ago & your wish to procure the Cacti of those regions I could have informed him, and he would no doubt have done all he could to gratify you. He promised to collect seeds of all plants that struck him as remarkable. For my own part I had for years entirely given up botany but have taken up the study of some few genera, for instance Vitis and Pinus in which I find much confusion and some new species, I have to work entirely by myself

obtaining but little assistance from others.

I thank you for your kind offer to obtain insects from Mr Lindheimer, nothing would give me greater pleasure than a collection from his part of our country. Insects soaked in Alcohol or Ether and put up in well corked phials can be kept for any length of time in perfect good condition and if the phials be so filled as to prevent any motion in the insects can be safely transported any distance. I would be very glad to have any insects for him, in which case they must be sent in boxes, which of course occupy much room, he could however I think without much difficulty find some means of sending them even in this manner.

I expect my son home by the next steamer which will probably arrive about the 15th

Accept the assurance of my
respect & esteem

John Le Conte

Dr George Englemann

46 Walker St
Newyork

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Rec^d Jan 7th 2 1853
Ans Jan 10th

Philadelphia Dec. 27th 1852.

My dear Doctor,

Immediately on the receipt of your letter I wrote to a friend in New York to look up the missing package, which in due course of time arrived. I have just finished the examination of them & find several very interesting species among them. Many are in bad condition, from the depredation of insects, on account probably of the delay in New York. Specimens should always be kept in alcohol, as they can then neither break nor be attacked.

I have however got about 80 specimens in good condition enough to be kept. I enclose according to your direction 5 dollars to be forwarded to Mr. Lindheimer. I also send a note respecting the future collection of insects, which you will oblige me by forwarding soon. I hope he will be industrious, as with the exception of a few very common species, I can dispose of all the specimens he will send.

With regard to large Echinocacti, I have

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the following notes in my journal, on a specimen seen east of San Felipe.

"Three feet high, 1½ feet in diameter, with 27 ribs, spines mostly hamate: sometimes several of the plants grow from a single base."

I am strongly inclined to believe this a different species from the Gila species, as I never considered the former as E. Wislizeni. Of the Gila species I have only the following entry. "16th (Jan. 1851.) "Echinocactus Wislizeni. & the Mammillaria like plant seen at San Felipe, appeared to day. The former bearing a crown composed of numerous oblong yellow fruit, about 2½ inches long."

No farther entry appears, as I was confident from the whole appearance of the plant that it was Emory's No. 4.

I regret that I did not take a description of it, but it is now too late: all that I can remember is that it is less cylindrical than the large species above described, & I believe that only one spine in each fasciculus was slightly hamate.

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The San Felipe species was not in seed, so that I failed to get specimens of it.

All the seeds given to Hogg in New York have germinated except Cereus giganteus. Please let me know what have come up with you.

Zantzinger has received your letter enclosing three dollars. & will forward the Proceedings so soon as the next number is printed. I will endeavor to add some pamphlets at the same time. I am much obliged for your interesting papers on Cereus giganteus, & meteorology, they came to hand a few days ago.

Sincerely yours

John L. Leconte.

Dr. Geo. Engelmann.

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